

GAZEBO EXPRESS

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • DECEMBER 2016

'TIS THE SEASON TO SHOP LOCAL

Holly Furdo prepares for the Christmas season at Brumm's Blooming Barn as if she is preparing to welcome family – because she is.

For Furdo, store manager and daughter of the owners, Christmas is a time to welcome generations of families for whom Brumm's is a holiday tradition.

"We are grateful to the community for their support," she said. "Our Shop Saturday this year broke records."

That's the kind of news Town Council President Bernie Zemen likes to hear.

"You can get everything you need, right here in Highland," Zemen said. "We are lucky to have a diverse group of great retailers in town."

At Tasty Olive in Porte DeLeau, owner Lynn Gandolfi sees a significant uptick in November and December sales.

"Some people come in to find that special dipping oil or balsamic for a holiday recipe, but most come to buy gifts for others," she said.

At Zandstra's Store for Men, owner Dale Tannis sees his regular customers as well as those looking for that special gift.

"People know us for our quality and want that for the men in their lives," he said. "From the casual to the formal, we have it at Zandstra's."



#GiveHighlandForTheHolidays

Looking for that special, boutique Christmas gift or something fun to do over the holidays? Follow this hashtag on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

SMALL BUSINESSES AWARDS

For 25 years, the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center has recognized outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners. Among this year's recipients are two Highland standouts: Minority-owned Small Business of the Year – **Paco's Custom Clothiers** and Family-owned Business of the Year – **Vyto's Pharmacy**.

INFO: Learn more about the 2016 awards and the recipients at edayleaders.com

HIGHLAND POLICE HIRING

The Highland Police Department is accepting applications for certified and noncertified police officers through December 21.

APPLICATIONS: Learn more about the application process and qualifications for the job. Find a certified or noncertified application packet at highlandpolice.com.

QUESTIONS? Call (219) 838-3184 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Identify yourself as an applicant and ask to speak with someone in administration.

HIGHLAND VIRTUAL TOUR

Take a virtual tour of Highland with the town's new video profile, produced at no cost to the town.

After a warm welcome from Council President Bernie Zemen, visitors can take a spin through shopping, dining and attractions or learn more about our local businesses, industry, education, recreation, parks, healthy living, housing, quality of life and community organizations.

Be sure to check out the videos and websites of local businesses, who sponsored the project.

INFO: highland.in.gov.

HIGHLAND SEEKING CONTRACTOR BIDS FOR TOWN THEATRE PROJECT

Bid specifications for the Town Theatre have been prepared and readied for distribution.

The sealed bids are due back in January and will provide one of the final details the Town Council needs: the contractor's bids.

Once the bids – and the proposed final renderings – are in hand, the Town Council will host a public meeting in January. Interior and exterior renderings along with operational forecasts

will be shared with the public.

"Every piece of this project has taken longer than anticipated, but it's been worth the wait," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said.

"Morris Architects lived up to its reputation as the go-to firm for unique projects, like the Town Theatre," Petro said. "Hopefully, we will get the Town Council's approval to begin construction ASAP."

JANUARY DEADLINE

Once the bid packages are made public, a link will be posted on the town website home page – highland.in.gov. The Redevelopment Commission asks general contractors to submit a bid for the totality of the project – including walls, floors, sound systems and lights.

BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL

Every Highland business is required to get a business license and renew it annually.

Download a business license form online at highland.in.gov. Complete the application and submit it along with the appropriate fee to the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana. Make checks payable to the Town of Highland.

INFO: Please call the Clerk-Treasurer's office at (219) 838-1080.

HOLIDAY TRASH PICK-UP

Highland residents are reminded that trash and recyclables will be collected on Wednesdays during the holidays. Christmas week collection will be Wednesday, Dec 28. New Year's Day week collection will be Jan 4.



WARD 1

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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14TH CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY: Front row (kneeling): Sgt. Chris Balbo (Co-coordinator), April VanderMeyden, Alicia Paul, Michelle Schroeder, Debbie Fagan, Marie Krygoski, Leah Harrison, and Deputy Commander John Banasiak (Co-coordinator). Second row (seated): Teri Martin, Susan Gryfakis, Fran Stessl, Edwina Golec, and Barbara Bell. Third row (standing): Chief Peter Hojnicky, Dale Krygoski, Susan Hayes, Robert Widiger, Linda Schultz, Rose Plesha, Shirley Johnson, Kevin Zurek, Steve Scheeringa, Ralph Scheeringa, Bill Leep, Joan Roback, Lola Harrison, and Mikayla Hayes. Not pictured: Desiree Vera.

CITIZENS GRADUATE FROM POLICE ACADEMY

The 2016 Citizens Police Academy class has graduated, leaving with a unique knowledge of law enforcement, the courts and justice system.

They learned how Highland's finest work to prevent crime and how they, as citizens, can help thwart criminal activity. It was a glimpse into a world most people never see – unless they live in a community like Highland.

In addition to department tours and ride-alongs, the annual 10-week program features an overview of the Lake County judicial system, criminal investigations, firearms/tasers, Neighborhood Crime Watch, the V.I.P.S. Program and accident investigations.

WANT TO JOIN THE NEXT CLASS?

Applications are available at the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road, or online at www.highlandpolice.com. Participants must be a Highland resident or employed by a business in Highland.

INFO: Call Deputy Cmdr. John Banasiak or Sgt. Chris Balbo at (219) 838-3184.

"This was another great class, inquisitive and eager to learn about what we do," Deputy Cmdr. John Banasiak said. "These graduates strengthen our department by being our eyes and ears in the community."

MAIN STREET LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Highland Main Street is looking for residents and business owners interested in giving back to the community through the development of the arts and community activities.

Created in 2011 and sanctioned by Indiana's Main Street Commission, HMS has provided value-added programs that are consistent with the volunteer group's mission to serve as a catalyst to make the downtown district vibrant for residents, visitors and business owners.

"In five short years, HMS has organized the Downtown Car Cruise in the spring and Festival of the Trail every autumn," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "We've even obtained grants for public art projects."

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Highland Main Street is an active group limited only by the size of its volunteer contingent. If you would like to become a member, have an innovative idea or want to focus on one of the initiatives already in place, the committee has a place for you.

INFO: For more information or to apply, contact Redevelopment Assistant Lance Ryskamp at lryskamp@highland.in.gov.

The group also organizes other community initiatives, including music at the street market and support for the Highland Rookery. They also created the position of Poet Laureate.



GETTING A READ ON HIGHLAND

Once 2nd & Charles opens in March, Highland will have bragging rights as the only three-bookstore town in Lake County.

Decades after massive changes in the way America shops — and reads — its books, Highland's booksellers have tapped into niche markets that have made them destinations for readers near and far.

Kolas Christian Bookstore and Miles Books — blocks from each other in downtown Highland — cater to local readers.

Kolas owner Sherri Vandersteen said she isn't trying to be an antiquarian bookstore and Jim Roumbos from Miles Books isn't dipping his toe into religious lit and Bibles.

"We both can get new books, almost always quicker than Amazon at the same or better pricing," Vandersteen said. "We have a friendly relationship and often refer customers to each other."

As for another bookstore in town, Vandersteen said the more the merrier.

"I see more interest in new, used and collectibles — not less," she said. "There is something so special about books."

KOLAS CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE

2635 Highway Avenue
Downtown Highland

Offers a wide variety of Christian books, gifts and merchandise.

MILES BOOKS

2819 Jewett
Downtown Highland

An independent book store specializing in new, gently used and collectible books.

2ND & CHARLES

10239 Indianapolis Blvd.
Highland Grove

Opens in March

Specializes in used books, comics, records, CDs, and so much more.



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

'Tis the season when crime can flourish. Police Chief Pete Hojnicky says there are things each of us can do to protect ourselves and our property during the upcoming holidays.

- * Keep doors locked and valuables out of plain view.
- * Make arrangements for a trusted neighbor or relative to pick-up or take delivery of mailed packages.
- * Leave both outside and inside lights on after dark. Preferably on a motion sensor.
- * Beware of phone scams seeking personal information.
- * Be aware of scams where subjects come to your door representing a town entity in an effort to gain entry and ransack your home.

IF YOU ARE LEAVING TOWN ...

- * Contact the police at (219) 838-3184 to put your residence on a vacation checklist. Highland VIPs will physically check the security of your home while you are away.
- * Put lights/radios/TVs on timers when gone for an extended time.
- * Make arrangements for your mail and newspapers to be picked up.
- * Have someone shovel your driveway and walkways.
- * Take in your trash cans.
- * Inform a trusted neighbor or relative to check your house.

IF YOU ARE SHOPPING ...

- * Shop with friends or family.
- * Do not carry large sums of money or all of your credit cards. Carry only what you need on your person.
- * Park in a well-lit area.
- * Lock your vehicle.
- * Store valuables in the trunk.
- * Avoid carrying purses.
- * Be aware of your surroundings.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Residents are asked to immediately report suspicious people, behavior or vehicles to police by calling 911.

KIDDIE TREAT DECORATING

Young tots and teens – ages 5 to 15 – will learn to decorate Christmas cookies from Cathy of Cookielicious Bakery. Each child will take home their uniquely decorated creations to show family and friends. All supplies are included.

WHEN: 5 p.m. December 13

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$15 residents/\$18 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 348009

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.

BARRE FITNESS

Lift, lengthen and define your entire body with this fun and energetic ballet-inspired workout. Light free weights and resistance bands tone arms and core muscles, while sculpting legs, bums and tums using our studio ballet barres.

WHEN: 5 p.m. Thursdays, December 8-29

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$22 residents/\$24 nonresidents

DROP-IN: \$9 residents/\$10 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 300015

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.

ZUMBA GOLD

Calling all seniors! Grab your gym shoes and join the dance party as we learn to salsa, tango and merengue.

WHEN: 4 p.m. Thursdays, December 8-29

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$18 residents/\$20 nonresidents

DROP-IN: \$8 residents/\$9 nonresidents

ONLINE CODE: 300031

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.

FLORIDA BUS TRIP

Register for Park & Recreation's spring trip to Orlando from March 11-19. Visit the Morse Museum, Bok Tower Gardens, "Florida's Natural" grove house, the Famous Davidson of Dundee Citrus Candy Factory, and the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. Free time will be spent at a theme park of the group's choice, but admission is not included. The trip includes 13 meals – 8 breakfasts and 5 dinners.

WHEN: March 11-19

WHERE: Orlando, Florida

FEE: \$700 per person based on double occupancy. Add \$239 for single occupancy. A \$75 deposit is due upon signing.

Payment due in full by January 2.

INFO: highlandparks.org or 219.838.0114.

HIGHLAND HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Check out Highland's best decorated homes and vote for your favorite at highlandparks.org. Each winner will receive a gift certificate for their efforts.

VOTE ONLINE: December 7-14 at highlandparks.org. Winners will be announced December 15.

COMMUNITY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Enjoy the sounds of the season at the Highland Community Band's annual Christmas concert.

WHEN: 7 p.m. December 15

WHERE: Highland High School Monbeck Auditorium

WANT TO JOIN US? Meet us during our weekly rehearsals at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the band room at Highland Middle School.

INFO: Email Director Greg Jasek at maestroflute@att.net.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

Ring in the new year with a fireworks display at Main Square Park. Bring the family to enjoy the midnight show. Hot chocolate will be served.

WHEN: Midnight December 31

WHERE: Main Square Park

ANNUAL TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

The Holiday Festival of Lights will close with a Twelfth Night celebration. Bring your Christmas trees to Main Square to light up the night. Hot chocolate will be served to warm your hearts and toes.

WHEN: 6 p.m. January 6

WHERE: Main Square Park

For more information on these Parks & Recreation holiday events, please call (219) 838-0114 or visit www.highlandparks.org.

